

A User Interface and Processing System for Digital Video, Audio and Ancillary Data

5 This invention is related to the field of digital signal processing, recording and retrieval of video and audio data for storage or display applications, for example.

 In digital video processing and storage applications, packetized video data is typically encoded with ancillary information for use in locating, decoding and navigating through encoded image data. In a Digital Video Disk (DVD) type application, ancillary data in the form of volume/file structure data and navigation data contains information for use in locating data and navigating through different image sequences. Volume/file structure information uses one or more file directories in defining file structures for use in locating and recovering data from a storage medium, for example. Navigation data additionally locates and links sections of video/audio program data for use in navigating through image sequence in different modes of operation, for example. In normal program play mode a first sequence of images is located, linked and processed for play by a DVD player and in another mode a different sequence of images is processed to provide a different scene or camera angle, for example. However, such ancillary file structure and navigation information may be encoded in different data formats in accordance with different encoding standards and applications. A program encoded with file structure and navigation data according to one standard for read-only DVD applications may be incompatible with the navigation data structure and content requirements of a different standard such as a recordable DVD format, for example. As a result a recordable format DVD disk may not be playable by a read-only DVD player or a program encoded for read-only DVD format may not be directly stored by a recordable DVD player, and vice versa.

 In addition, the content and format of existing file structure and navigation data structures for DVD and other applications are limited and do not adequately support advanced decoder navigation features for multimedia and other applications. Advanced decoder navigation features include, for example, trick play operation (such as reverse, fast forward, freeze-frame etc.), image manipulation (involving linking images out of sequence and from different programs), and navigation in a multi-windowed composite image display containing different video programs or other multimedia application images. Such multimedia picture-in-picture (PIP) type images may comprise, for example,

Internet web pages, electronic program guides, Email, telephone, fax, video-phone, home appliance control images as well as video program images. These deficiencies and derivative deficiencies are addressed by a system according to the present invention. Specifically, a system according to the invention addresses the problems involved in generating, processing and formatting ancillary volume/file structure and navigation data to be compatible with different data encoding standards and to support advanced multimedia navigation features.

A video decoder User interface system supports decoding, recording and other applications including the addition of new decoder features and the conversion of data formats between read-only and recordable formats, for example. The system involves generating a menu from stored data representative of a pre-formed menu containing a menu icon permitting User selection of data format conversion of packetized data from a read-only data format to a different recordable data format. The system generates navigation parameters that are compatible with the recordable data format and incorporates them in output data in response to User selection of the menu icon. In another feature, the pre-formed menu also contains an inactive menu icon that is activated by associating and linking an active command with the inactive menu icon.

Brief Description of the Drawings

In the drawing:

Figure 1 shows an exemplary top level generic DVD data format compatible with recordable and read-only DVD players, according to the invention.

Figure 2 shows a read-only DVD data format indicating volume/file structure and video program navigation information.

Figures 3A and 3B show a table listing read-only DVD format data structure items (indicated in Figure 2) that are processed in pre-processing, contemporaneous and post-processing modes for incorporation in the generic DVD data format of Figure 1, according to the invention.

Figure 4 shows an exemplary Title Search Pointer Data element of a generic DVD data format for inclusion of data type alteration information, according to the invention.

Figure 5 depicts an exemplary recorded Video Object Unit (VOBU) including navigation, video, audio and sub-picture data.

Figure 6 depicts an Error Correction Coded (ECC) block within a Video Object Unit (VOBU).

Figure 7 shows a flowchart for a method for providing volume/file structure and navigation data compatible with different data formats, according to the invention.

Figure 8 shows a flowchart for a method for converting image representative digital video data in a read only data format to a different generic data format compatible with read-only and recordable formats, according to the invention.

Figure 9 shows a video decoder and recorder system, according to the invention, for adaptively generating and processing volume/file structure and navigation data for different data formats and for converting data between the formats.

Figure 10 shows an example of activation of buttons in a pre-formed menu, according to the invention.

A video processing system advantageously adaptively generates and processes volume/file structure and navigation data of different data format and converts data between different formats for decoding, recording and other applications. The principles of the invention may be applied to processing and storage of terrestrial, cable, satellite, Internet or computer network broadcast data. Further, although the disclosed system is described as processing video programs, this is exemplary only. The term 'program' is used to represent any form of packetized data such as audio data, telephone messages, computer programs, Internet web pages or other communications, for example.

The processing system is discussed in the context of processing and converting data of different data format, specifically in processing and converting between recordable and read-only formats for a DVD type application and vice versa. However, this is exemplary only, the principles of the invention may also be applied to the processing and conversion of other data formats. Other formats may include, for example, proprietary and custom formats, MPEG

format (including data encoded to the MPEG-4 or MPEG-7 standards) and non-MPEG compatible formats. Note, the read-only DVD data format employs a subset of the MPEG2 format and is defined by a proprietary standard adopted by a consortium of consumer electronics companies and described in available literature such as "DVD Demystified-The Guidebook of DVD-Video and DVD-ROM", 1997, by Jim Taylor published by McGraw Hill. Further, MPEG2 compatible data is encoded in accordance with the "MPEG standard" comprised of a system encoding section (ISO/IEC 13818-1, 10th June 1994) and a video encoding section (ISO/IEC 13818-2, 20th January 1995).

A program encoded with file structure and navigation data according to a recordable DVD standard may be incompatible with the file structure and navigation data requirements of a program encoded to a different standard such as a read-only DVD format, for example. As a result a recordable DVD disk may not be playable by a read-only DVD player or a program encoded for read-only DVD format may not be directly stored by a recordable DVD player, and vice versa. Such data format incompatibility may arise between other different data formats. Data format incompatibility may also arise between data encoded in different versions of a single format such as between different versions of a recordable DVD format. The resulting lack of backward compatibility means a recorded disk may not be playable on different generations of player, for example.

A processing system, according to the invention, adaptively generates and processes file structure and navigation data of different data format. The processing system also converts file structure and navigation data between different formats for decoding, recording and other applications. In a specific embodiment, a processing system encodes a video program into a generic data format (as exemplified in Figure 1) that is compatible with recordable and read-only video processing devices.

A number of difficulties are involved in processing a program in a recordable data format for play by a read-only format player. Specifically, a program encoded in a read-only format (as exemplified by Figure 2) contains file structure and navigation data to support several navigation features. Such features include, the location of individual programs in a set of programs, the navigation through different image sequences to provide different scenes or camera angles, and trick play operation (such as reverse, fast forward, freeze-frame etc.) for example. The read-only format file structure and navigation data supporting such navigation features is derived and stored in a disk-mastering operation as part of a manufacturing process where there are no real time

processing constraints. In contrast, deriving such file structure and navigation data for home recording imposes a significant burden on a recording device.

A processing system, according to the invention, minimizes the burden of generating such file structure and navigation data by advantageously adaptively generating and processing data in distinct modes. These modes comprise, (a) pre-processing, (b) contemporaneous and (c) post-processing modes. The pre-processing mode precedes a program recording or format conversion operation. The contemporaneous mode occurs during a program recording or format conversion operation. Further, the pre-processing and contemporaneous modes may each involve creating pre-formed data fields for subsequent insertion of file structure and navigation parameters. The post-processing mode occurs after program recording or format conversion and involves inserting file structure or navigation parameters in the pre-formed data fields.

A processing system encodes a video program into a generic data format (as exemplified in Figure 1) that is compatible with read-only format (as exemplified in Figure 2) and recordable format video processing devices. The following discussion describes the generic data format of Figure 1 and read-only format of Figure 2. The subsequent discussion in connection with Figures 3A and 3B describes the processing of read-only DVD format data items of Figure 2 in pre-processing, contemporaneous and post-processing modes for incorporation in the generic DVD data format of Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows an exemplary top level generic DVD data format compatible with recordable and read-only DVD players. The highest level of the hierarchical generic data format comprises volume and file structure section 400 defining file locations and paths and section 403 for insertion of other volume or file structure information. The highest level also includes video zone 405 including program video content and program guide/menu content and other zone 407 for ancillary and other data. Video zone 405 comprises video manager 409 and video zone 411. Further video manager 409 is hierarchically comprised of navigation information 414 and data section 418 for insertion of navigation information and other data in section 420. Video Zone 411 is comprised of navigation information 422 and data section 424 for insertion of navigation information generated in post-processing mode and other data in section 427.

The file structure and navigation parameters incorporated within the generic format of Figure 1 support navigation through images in an MPEG compatible group of pictures (GOP) or within a DVD video object unit (VOBU). The parameters also support navigation within a single program or between

different programs including audio programs, Internet web page data, text data, and program guides and between images of different MPEG elementary streams. Specifically, navigation parameters may include, for example, parameters identifying individual GOPs, or the number of GOPs in a video object unit (VOBU), or image data location information. Further, such location information may include data, identifying the size of image representative data, or identifying MPEG reference frames in a VOB or GOP, or identifying image representative data start or end addresses. In addition, the navigation parameters may also include trick play mode selection information.

Figure 2 shows a read-only DVD hierarchical data format indicating location and structure of navigation information used in decoding and navigating through video program image sequences for different modes of operation. The highest level of the hierarchical read-only data format comprises, volume and file structure data 191, a video manager section (VMG) 200 and video title (program) sets (VTS) 203-205 including video program content. Each VTS is hierarchically associated with: video title set information VTSI 213 for one or more video programs (titles); program menu information 217; program content information 223 and back-up VTSI data 225. Further, program menu information 217 and program content information 223 are comprised of video objects (VOB) 260-262 and an individual VOB (e.g. VOB 260) is comprised of cells 264-266. An individual cell, e.g. cell 264, represents program data of duration that is variable from 1 second to the length an entire movie, for example. Cell 264 is comprised of video object units (VOBU) 268-270 and each video object unit represents 0.4-1.2 seconds of video program play. Each individual video object unit (exemplified by units 272, 274-276) may include navigation pack information together with video, audio and sub-picture data (comprising captions, and ancillary text, for example). An individual navigation pack includes headers, sub-stream_ids, presentation control information (PCI) data, and data search information (DSI) as shown in units 280-294.

The main menu of a DVD disc in video manager section (VMG) 200 is optional. This main menu represents the first image a User sees on accessing a DVD disk. VMG 200 is hierarchically associated with video manager control data 207, disc menu 209 and video manager back-up information 210. Further, control data 207 comprises: information management table 230; title search pointer table 233; menu program chain information unit table 235; parental management information table 237; video title set attribute table 239; text data manager 242; menu cell address table 244; and menu video object unit address map 246. Specifically, items 230-246 define size and start addresses of VMG

information, attributes of video objects of the video manager menu, video program search information, menu language information, parental rating control information, duplicate video program attribute information, and program identification names (e.g. volume, album or producer names). Further, title search pointer table 233 includes search information items 253, 255, 257 and 259 each specifying program type, program number, number of camera angles, parental rating identifier and program start address, for example) for each program on a disk. Title search pointer table 233 also includes in item 248 parameters defining size and location of search pointer table 233 itself.

Figures 3A and 3B show a table listing read-only DVD format data structure items 650-716 (incorporated in the data structure of Figure 2) that are processed in pre-processing, contemporaneous and post-processing modes for incorporation in the generic DVD data format of Figure 1. Columns 633, 637 and 639 of Figures 3A and 3B indicate the nature of the processing action taken in conditioning data items 650-716 for inclusion in the generic data format of Figure 1. Column 640 of Figures 3A and 3B identifies the individual data elements of Figure 2 containing data items 650-716 and column 645 identifies the corresponding data elements of the generic format of Figure 1 designated to incorporate the processed data items 650-716. The pre-processing, contemporaneous and post-processing actions listed in Figures 3A and 3B are described as follows.

1. Pre-processing Mode

Pre-processing mode involves processing information that is obtainable prior to program recording. As part of pre-processing, a disk may be checked for usability, a file structure may be created and an audio track (either newly created or pre-existing) may be incorporated into pre-processed data. Specifically, in pre-processing mode, Video manager main menu 650 is created, a menu language 652 (e.g. English, French, German etc. as used in menus, text, etc.) is selected and program chain menu information 655 (i.e. information linking menu segments) is generated. Further, the number of video objects 657 in a video object set for a video manager menu is limited to 1 and both the size of the video object and its associated address are pre-defined. Content rating 659 (used for Parental management) is optional but may similarly be determined before recording. Further, in order to create a new video program (title) set menu (i.e. a menu of programs available on the disc), a standard pre-formed menu is used including title set menu cell address table 711 and video title set menu video object unit address map 713. In addition, other items may be optionally created during pre-processing mode including, information management table 679, text

management information 689, menu cell address table 691 and video object unit address table 697.

The pre-processing of data in the manner described herein advantageously simplifies and expedites the generation and processing of file structure and navigation data of different data format. The pre-processing and pre-forming of data elements prior to program recording or format conversion reduces the processing burden otherwise involved in performing these operations during recording or in post-processing. Such pre-processing may involve counting the number of individual I, P and B frames in an MPEG compatible GOP or in a VOB, for example. Further, some pre-formed data elements are advantageously updated with new data during recording or post-processing mode. Other pre-formed data elements may be advantageously subsequently modified to accommodate newly available functions or features. For example, a menu may be generated before recording in the form of a stored bit map or may be embedded within software (e.g. in HTML). In one version, such a menu may be pre-formed to contain visible and invisible buttons. The invisible buttons are associated with inactive commands (e.g. no-operation NOP commands). A pre-formed menu containing invisible buttons is retrieved from memory and incorporated into video program data during program recording or to expand decoder features. The invisible menu buttons are subsequently activated by rendering the buttons visible and by replacing the dummy commands with active commands in response to a request to add a feature, for example. Figure 10 shows an example of activation of buttons in a pre-formed menu. Figure 10(a) shows the standard menu with no visible buttons and Figures 10(b) and 10(c) show the progressive activation of a single button and six buttons respectively. This capability supports the addition of a program (and an associated access pointer) that needs to be selectable by a User through a menu and supports other added User functions. In another version, a menu may be pre-formed to contain visible buttons associated with inactive commands and the menu may be subsequently activated by replacing the inactive commands with active commands. Similarly, the pre-processing described herein may advantageously be used to create whole new menus or an individual command item within an existing menu to flexibly accommodate data format conversion or new feature addition.

2. Contemporaneous mode (occurring during program recording).

Contemporaneous mode comprises processing that occurs during a program recording or format conversion operation. In contemporaneous mode, control

indicators are updated upon addition of a new program (title) to a disk containing recorded program data. Specifically, the update of control indicators involves setting data type indicator 667 to zero and incrementing both the number of the video program set 663 and the number of title search pointers 665. Navigation information 669, 672 of unknown destination (e.g. involving commands such as link, jump, call instructions etc.) are recorded as dummy commands and updated in post-processing. Also, for a new video program set, a search pointer 693 and video attributes 695 are recorded with dummy data for update in post-processing.

In recording a new video program set, information items 701-716 are recorded and dummy data is incorporated for subsequent update in post-processing. In recording a new program, a program start address is added to management table 701 and a pointer is incorporated in pointer table 703. Further, program chain table 705 and unit table 707 are updated to include linking data for segments of the added program. Similarly, in time map table 709 containing program address links permitting random access for trick play and other navigation modes, time map link addresses may be updated, an associated index number is incremented and a search pointer is added. Unknown data is recorded as dummy data for update in post-processing. A new menu button permitting User selection of the added program is added in the video program set menu 650. In addition, associated navigation items are updated including menu program chain information 655 and navigation command data 669. The number of menu video objects 657 may also be updated to accommodate the new menu button if necessary.

In recording a new video object, new video title set cell information 711 is added, and the number of video objects and unknown data are recorded as dummy data. Program chain information 705 and menu program chain information unit table 707 are updated to reflect the new changed number of programs and cells. Note, items 705 and 707 contain data related to program control for a video tile set and its associated menu. Navigation commands (NextPGC, PreviousPGC, GoUp PGC, PG playback mode, and Still Time Value) are recorded as dummy commands (NOP) if the navigation destination is unknown at this stage. For a new cell, a cell number entry is added in the video title cell address table 716. In addition, video object units are stored in memory as complete units and are parsed prior to recording to determine video object unit level navigation information. Forward address links of sequentially linked video object units are unknown and are recorded as dummy data for update during post-processing.

3. Post-processing mode.

The post-processing mode occurs after program recording and involves updating dummy data in the file structure and navigation parameter data fields formed in the pre-processing and contemporaneous modes. Specifically, upon data format conversion, data type indicator 667 is changed from zero to one and existing video manager menu 650 may be replaced with a new version. Further, additional languages 652 are added if desired, and menu program chain information 655 and the number of video objects in the video manager menu 657 are updated with correct values. Similarly, content rating (Parental management) information 659 and text management information 689 are added or updated in this mode. The dummy data included for attribute search pointer 693 and for video program attributes 695 is replaced with correct information including a valid video program set attribute end address. Other data items 669-716 may similarly be updated or corrected in this mode if required.

Figure 4 shows an exemplary Title Search Pointer Data element of the generic DVD data format (Figure 1) for inclusion of data type alteration information or information defining format type. The search pointer item 440 (Title playback type) is used to indicate a data format change from read-only to generic data format. However other definable parameters may also be used for indicating data format alteration or for defining a format type. Data items 442-452 provide camera angle, title, parental-id, and title set identifier parameters for use in decoding.

Figures 5 and 6 show a time based data structure of recorded data in read-only format. Figure 5 depicts an exemplary recorded read-only format Video Object Unit (VOBU) including navigation, video, audio and sub-picture data and sector addresses. Figure 6 depicts an Error Correction Coded (ECC) block 460 within a Video Object Unit (VOBU).

Figure 7 shows a flowchart for a method for providing volume/file structure and navigation data compatible with different data formats. In step 303 following the start at step 300, encoded packetized video data representing a video program is parsed to determine volume/file structure and navigation parameters for use in navigating through a sequence of video images. The parameters may support navigation through images in normal or trick play (e.g. fast forward, reverse, freeze frame etc.). However, the file structure and navigation parameters may also be derived and processed as part of a data format conversion process. The parameters determined in step 303 are formed into a predetermined structure in step 305 and the parameters, as structured, are

incorporated into preformed file structure and navigation data fields in packetized video program representative data in step 310. In step 315, an indicator is incorporated into the packetized data to indicate that the file structure and navigation parameters have been inserted and the packetized data, as formed, is output in step 320. The process terminates at step 325.

Figure 8 shows a flowchart for a method for converting image representative digital video data in a read only data format to a different generic format compatible with read-only and recordable format players. In step 359 following the start at step 350, a user conversion selection input 357 is processed to determine whether an individual program or an entire disk containing one or more programs is to be converted from read-only to generic data format. If conversion of an individual program or an entire disk has been selected, steps 361 and 363 determine respectively whether a conversion indicator has already been set. If the indicator is set, the conversion has already been performed and the process terminates at either step 355 or step 365. If the indicator shows the conversion has not been previously performed, the process for program or disk conversion continues in step 367. Step 367 performs the pre-processing, contemporaneous and post-processing functions for the conversion of read-only file structure, navigation and other data (of Figure 2) to the generic DVD data format (of Figure 1) as previously described in connection with Figures 3A and 3B.

In the case of conversion of a single program or an entire disk, data is advantageously processed in Error Correction Coded (ECC) block units to simplify processing. In other embodiments, processing may be performed on the basis of different sized data involving correspondingly different memory capacities for the conversion processing. In step 367, ECC blocks in a video object unit (VOBU) are individually processed and this is repeated for each of the VOBUs in the program. Individual ECC blocks of a program are retrieved from storage and parsed to generate generic format volume, file structure and navigation parameters for incorporation in generic format data fields. Further, in step 367, the pre-processed generic format data is re-stored back to the original disk, either to overwrite the original stored program, or to occupy a different storage area (on the original disk or on a different disk). During the re-storage of the generic format program, selected file structure and navigation parameters are generated or updated as described previously in connection with the contemporaneous mode processing of Figures 3A and 3B. In the post-processing function of step 367, the re-stored generic format data produced during the contemporaneous mode is read and parsed to generate consistent file structure

and navigation parameters (including addresses, data sizes, location and pointer information as described in connection with Figures 3A and 3B). The resultant consistent file structure and navigation parameters are inserted (e.g. by overwriting existing parameters) into their respective generic format data fields in the re-stored generic format program. The data format conversion process of step 367 is completed by updating the data type indicator (e.g. indicator 667 of Figures 3A and 3B) to reflect a format change and the process of Figure 8 terminates at step 373. In converting an entire disk of programs or a plurality of selected programs on a disk, the process described in step 367 is repeated for each of the requisite selected programs.

Figure 9 shows a video decoder and recorder system for adaptively generating and processing volume/file structure and navigation data for different data formats and for converting data between the formats. In block 10 a deck is shown for accommodating disk 14 for rotation by motor 12. A digital signal representing a program is recorded on (and subsequently read from) disk 14 as a spiral track containing pits with respective pit lengths determined by modulation coding responsive to respective signal data bits. In read mode, the program on disk 14 is read by pick up 15 which gathers reflected illumination from a laser. The reflected laser light is collected by a photo detector or opto pick-up device. An imaging device, for example a lens or mirror, which form part of transducer 15, is servo controlled and driven by motor 11 to follow the recorded track. Different parts of the recording may be accessed by rapidly repositioning the imaging device. Servo controlled motors 11 and 12 are driven by integrated circuit drive amplifier 20. Integrated circuit 50 provides drive and control signals for amplifier 20 and servo motors 11 and 12 under direction of controller 510. Transducer 15 is coupled to an opto preamplifier, block 30, which includes drive circuitry for the laser illuminator and a preamplifier which provides amplification and equalization for the reflected signal output from opto transducer device 15. The amplified and equalized replay signal from opto preamplifier 30 is connected to a channel processor block 40 where the replay signal is demodulated following synchronization with a phase locked loop. In record mode, unit 40 encodes, modulates and processes an input digital signal from multiplexer 53 for storage on disk 14 as laser etched pits formed using laser control unit 30 and transducer 15 with respective pit lengths determined by modulation coding representing signal data bits.

In read mode, the digital video disk player is controlled by a central processing unit (CPU) 510 of block 500 in conjunction with memory 80. Unit 510 processes the reproduced bitstream and error flags from channel IC 40 to

provide separate video, audio, sub-picture and system control data for output to other units and for internal use. Controller 510 provides MPEG encoded video and audio data to decoder 530 and audio decoder 110 respectively. In addition CPU 510 receives user control commands from user interface 90, and MPEG
5 decoder control functions from the MPEG decoder element 530 of block 500. MPEG decoder 530 uses memory 60 in decoding MPEG encoded video data from unit 510 using variable length coding, discrete cosine transform and quantization functions. Following MPEG or AC3 audio decoding by unit 110, a digitized audio
10 signal results which is coupled to an audio post processor 130 for digital to analog conversion and generation of various base band audio signal outputs. Also, following MPEG video decoding, a digital video output signal from unit 530 is transformed into raster scan format and processed by encoder 590 which provides digital to analog signal conversion and generates baseband video components and encoded video signals for output to a reproduction device.

15 In record mode, input video and audio datastreams are digitized by analog to digital converters 551 and 541 respectively. The resultant digital video and audio datastreams are MPEG encoded by video encoder 533 and either MPEG or AC3 encoded by audio encoder 113 under direction of controller 513. The functions of controller 513 may, in other embodiments, be encompassed
20 within the functions performed by unit 510. Unit 33 generates sub-picture data (e.g. text, captions, menus etc.) and unit 43 generates file structure and navigation data compatible with the generic format of Figure 1 under direction of controller 513. The generated sub-picture, file structure and navigation data is incorporated with video and audio encoded data from units 533 and 113
25 respectively via multiplexers 53 and 63. For this purpose, multiplexer 53 and 63 are controlled by unit 513 in coordination with re-synchronized input timing data provided by unit 73. The encoded multiplexed data from multiplexer 53 is modulated and channel coded and stored on disk 14 via units 40, 30 and 10.

30 Controllers 510 and 513 control the elements of the record/replay system of Figure 9 to convert a program stored on disc 14 in read-only format (exemplified in Figure 2) to generic format (exemplified in Figure 1). For this purpose, controllers 510 and 513 acquire, parse and collate read-only data from disk 14 and re-format this data into the generic data format (of Figure 1) for re-storage back to disk 14. Units 510 and 513 achieve this by controlling the
35 elements of the Figure 9 system in executing the processes of Figures 7 and 8 using the pre-processing, contemporaneous and post-processing functions described in connection with Figures 3A and 3B.

The architecture of Figure 9 is not exclusive. Other architectures may be derived in accordance with the principles of the invention to accomplish the same objectives. Further, the functions of the elements of the system of Figure 9 and the process steps of Figures 7 and 8 may be implemented in whole or in part within the programmed instructions of a microprocessor. The pre-processing, contemporaneous and post-processing mode and data conversion principles disclosed herein are applicable to modify the file/navigation data structure or convert the data format of a wide variety of digital data transport structures. Such transport structures, for example, may include MPEG-PSI, JPEG, Internet TCP/IP (Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol), DSS (Digital Satellite System), ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) etc. Further, the file/navigation data structure processing principles disclosed here may be applied in other systems, such as in PCs, servers, set-top boxes, other video and audio decoders, HDTV devices and in other data processing devices.

15
CLAIMS

1. A method for providing a User interface for use in a video decoder for processing a video program including encoded digital packetized data representative of a sequence of individual images, comprising the steps of:

generating a menu from stored data representative of a pre-formed menu containing a menu icon permitting User selection of data format conversion of said encoded digital packetized data from a read-only data format to a different recordable data format;

generating navigation parameters compatible with said recordable data format in response to User selection of said menu icon; and
incorporating said navigation parameters in output data.

2. A User interface system for processing a video program including encoded digital packetized data representative of a sequence of individual images, comprising:

a menu (33) generator for generating a menu from stored data representative of a pre-formed menu containing an inactive menu icon;

a processor (510,513) for activating said inactive menu icon by associating an active command with said inactive menu icon in response to a signal indicating addition of a video program related feature; and

a navigation processor (43) linking said activated menu icon with said active command enabling User operation of said program related feature in response to User selection of said activated menu icon.

3. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein said pre-formed menu includes a plurality of inactive menu icons representing a selected set of predetermined video program related features for addition, and said activating processors selects one of said inactive menu icons in response to a signal indicating addition of a video program related feature.

4. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein said pre-formed menu contains a menu icon permitting User selection of data format conversion of said encoded digital packetized data from a first data format to a different second data format.

5. A User interface system according to claim 4 wherein
said first data format is a read-only data format and said different
second data format is a recordable data format.

5

6. A system according to claim 2, wherein
said stored data representative of a pre-formed menu is constrained
to a predetermined set of parameters including at least one of, (a) a defined start
address of said representative data, (b) a defined end address of said
representative data, (c) a defined size of said representative data, (d) a fixed
menu language, and (e) defined menu icon text labels.

10

7. A system according to claim 2, wherein
said navigation processor links said activated menu icon with one of
a constrained set of video program related features in response to User selection
of said activated menu icon.

15

8. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein
said inactive menu icon is invisible and is rendered visible by said
menu generator in response to said signal indicating addition of a video program
related feature.

20

9. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein
said pre-formed menu is an existing User operational menu
containing an inactive menu icon.

25

10. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein
said activated menu icon supports User function selection
associated with a video program and is activated in response to a signal
indicating at least one of, (a) recording of said video program and (b) format
conversion of said video program.

30

11. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein
said processor activates said inactive menu icon by substituting said active
command for an inactive command associated with said inactive menu icon.

35

1/9

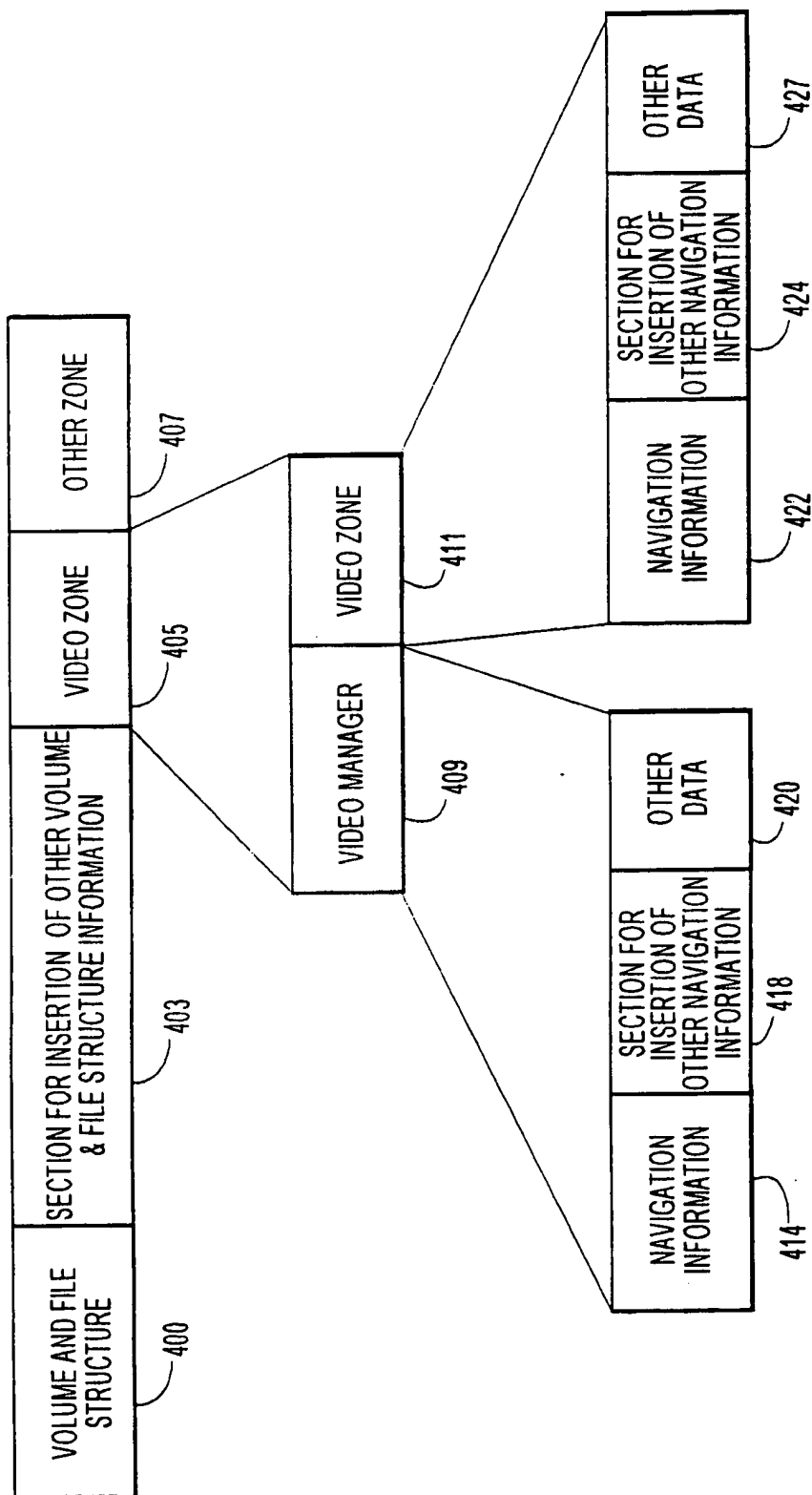


FIG. 1

2/9

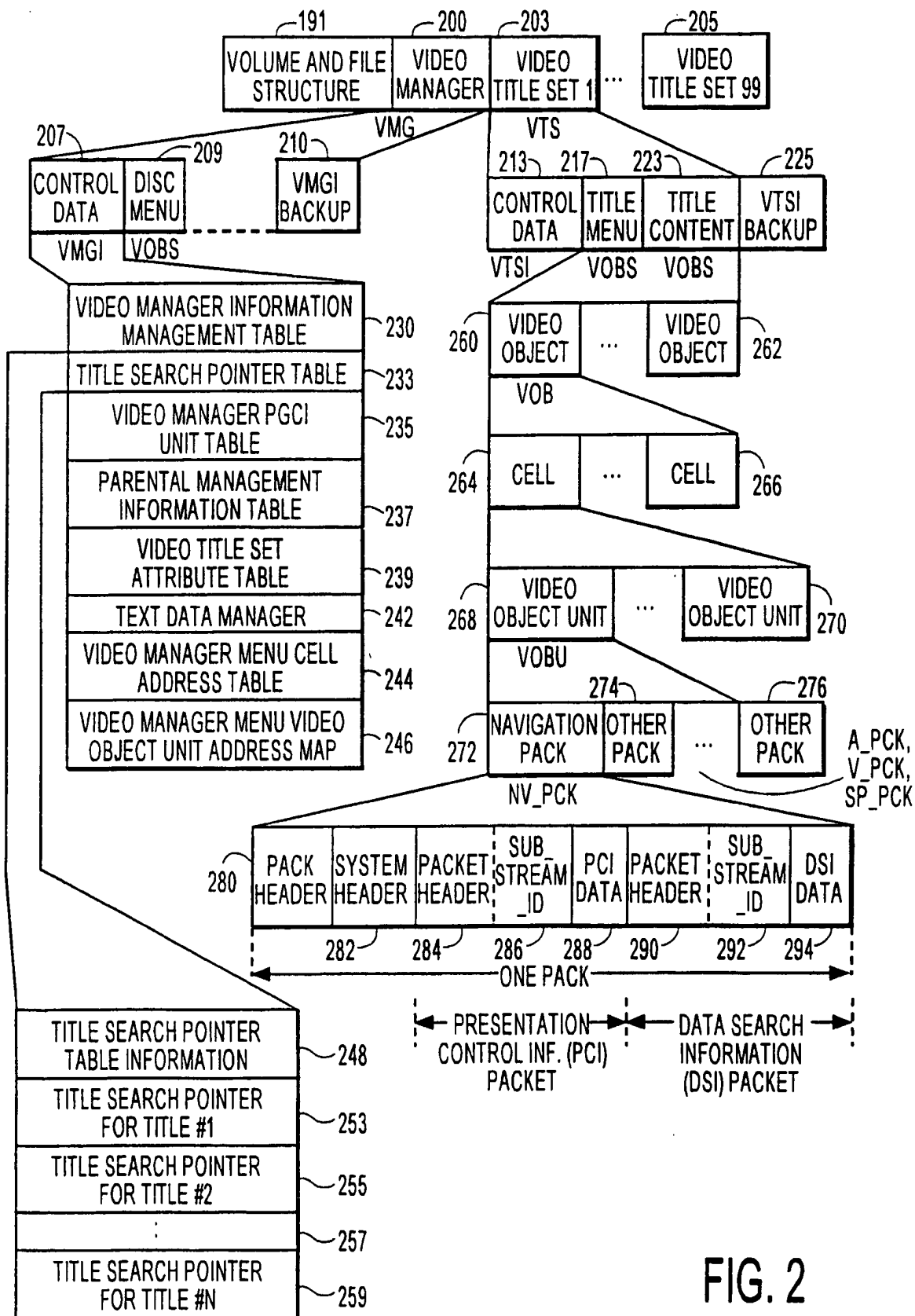


FIG. 2

3/9

PARAMETERS/TABLES/MAPS	633 PRE- PROCESSING	637 DURING RECORDING	639 POST- PROCESSING	640 READ ONLY FORMAT DATA ITEM (FIGURE2)	645 GENERIC FORMAT DATA ITEM (FIGURE1)
650 MENU	Y	C	U	209, 217	409, 418
652 LANGUAGES	1	1	MULTIPLE	209, 217	409, 418
655 PROGRAM CHAIN INFORMATION IN MENU DOMAIN	Y	C	U	209, 217	409, 418
657 NUMBER OF VIDEO OBJECTS IN VIDEO TITLE SET MENU	1	1	U	217	424
659 CONTENT RATINGS	0	0	0	207	411-424
663 NUMBER OF VIDEO TITLE SET		X	U	200	409
665 NUMBER OF TITLE SEARCH POINTER		X	U	207	409, 418
667 BIT 7 OF THE BYTE TITLE PLAY BACK		ZERO	ONE	207	409, 418
669 NAVIGATION COMMANDS IN MENU		R	U	209, 217	409, 418
672 NAVIGATION INFORMATION IN VIDEO OBJECT UNIT		R	U	272	427
675 FORWARD ADDRESSES IN VIDEO OBJECT UNIT			U	272	427
677 FILES IN FILE STRUCTURE		0	U	191	403
679 VIDEO MANAGER INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TABLE	0	0	U	207	409, 414, 418
682 TITLE SEARCH POINTER TABLE		R	U	207	409, 414, 418
686 VIDEO MANAGEMENT INFORMATION TABLE					
689 TEXT DATA MANAGER	0	0	0	207	409, 414, 418
691 VIDEO MANAGER MENU CELL ADDRESS TABLE	0	R	U	207	409, 414, 418
693 VIDEO TITLE SET ATTRIBUTE SEARCH POINTER		R	U	207	409, 414, 418
695 VIDEO TITLE SET ATTRIBUTE		R	U	207	409, 414, 418
697 VIDEO OBJECT UNIT ADDRESS TABLE	0	R	U	207, 213	409, 411

O: OPTIONAL, R: RECORD AND INSERT DUMMY DATA FOR UNKNOWN INFORMATION
 X: INSERT THE CORRECT INFORMATION, THIS DATA IS TO BE CHECKED DURING UPDATING.
 C: COPY EXISTING DATA ONTO DISC. MULTIPLE: COULD BE MORE THAN 1.
 U: UPDATE, AND REPLACE DUMMY DATA WITH RIGHT INFORMATION
 Y: INFORMATION IS KNOWN BUT MAY ALSO BE UPDATED LATER

FIG. 3A

PARAMETERS/TABLES/MAPS					633	637	639	640	645
					PRE-PROCESSING	DURING RECORDING	POST-PROCESSING	READ ONLY FORMAT DATA ITEM (FIGURE2)	GENERIC FORMAT DATA ITEM (FIGURE1)
701	VIDEO TITLE SET INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TABLE					R	U	213	411, 422, 424
703	PART OF TITLE IN VIDEO TITLE SET SEARCH POINTER TABLE					R	U	213	411, 422, 424
705	PROGRAM CHAIN INFORMATION TABLE IN VIDEO TITLE SET					R	U	213	411, 422, 424
707	VIDEO TITLE SET MENU PROGRAM CHAIN INFORMATION UNIT TABLE					R	U	213	411, 422, 424
709	VIDEO TITLE SET TIME MAP TABLE					O	O	213	411, 422, 424
711	VIDEO TITLE SET MENU CELL ADDRESS TABLE			Y		C	U	213	411, 422, 424
713	VIDEO TITLE SET MENU VIDEO OBJECT UNIT ADDRESS MAP			Y		C	U	213	411, 422, 424
716	VIDEO TITLE SET CELL ADDRESS TABLE					R	U	213	411, 422, 424

O: OPTIONAL, R: RECORD AND INSERT DUMMY DATA FOR UNKNOWN INFORMATION U: UPDATE, AND REPLACE DUMMY DATA WITH RIGHT INFORMATION
X: INSERT THE CORRECT INFORMATION, THIS DATA IS TO BE CHECKED DURING UPDATING. Y: INFORMATION IS KNOWN BUT MAY ALSO BE UPDATED LATER
C: COPY EXISTING DATA ONTO DISC. MULTIPLE: COULD BE MORE THAN 1.

FIG. 3B

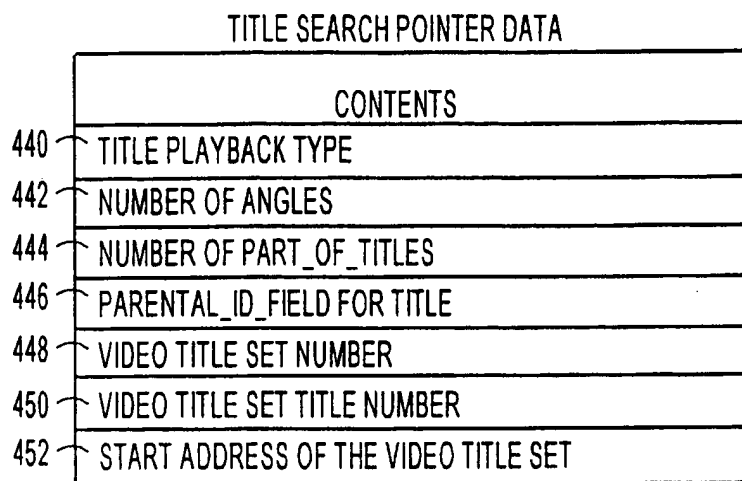


FIG. 4

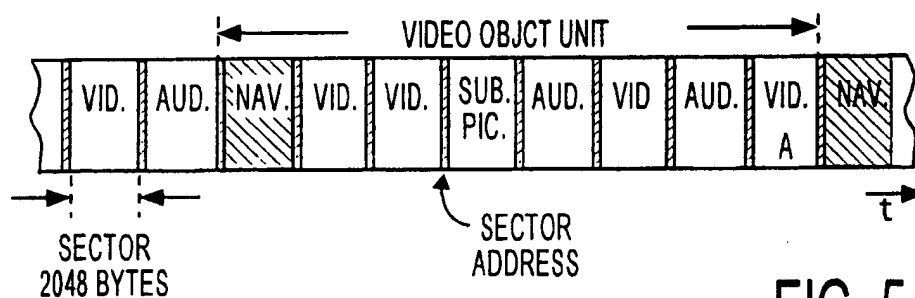


FIG. 5

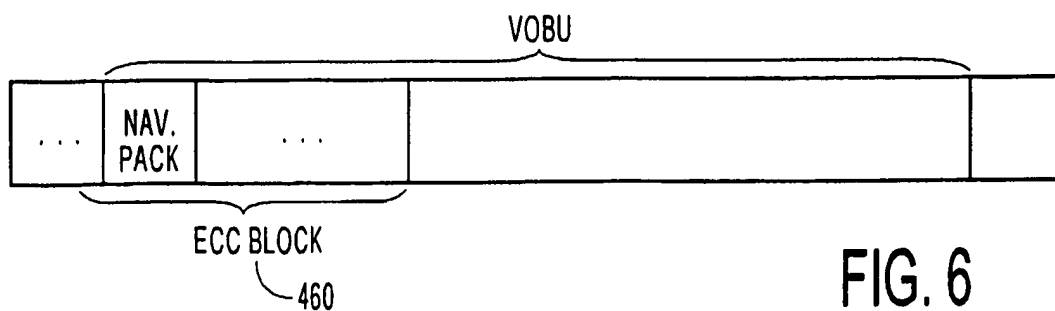


FIG. 6

6/9

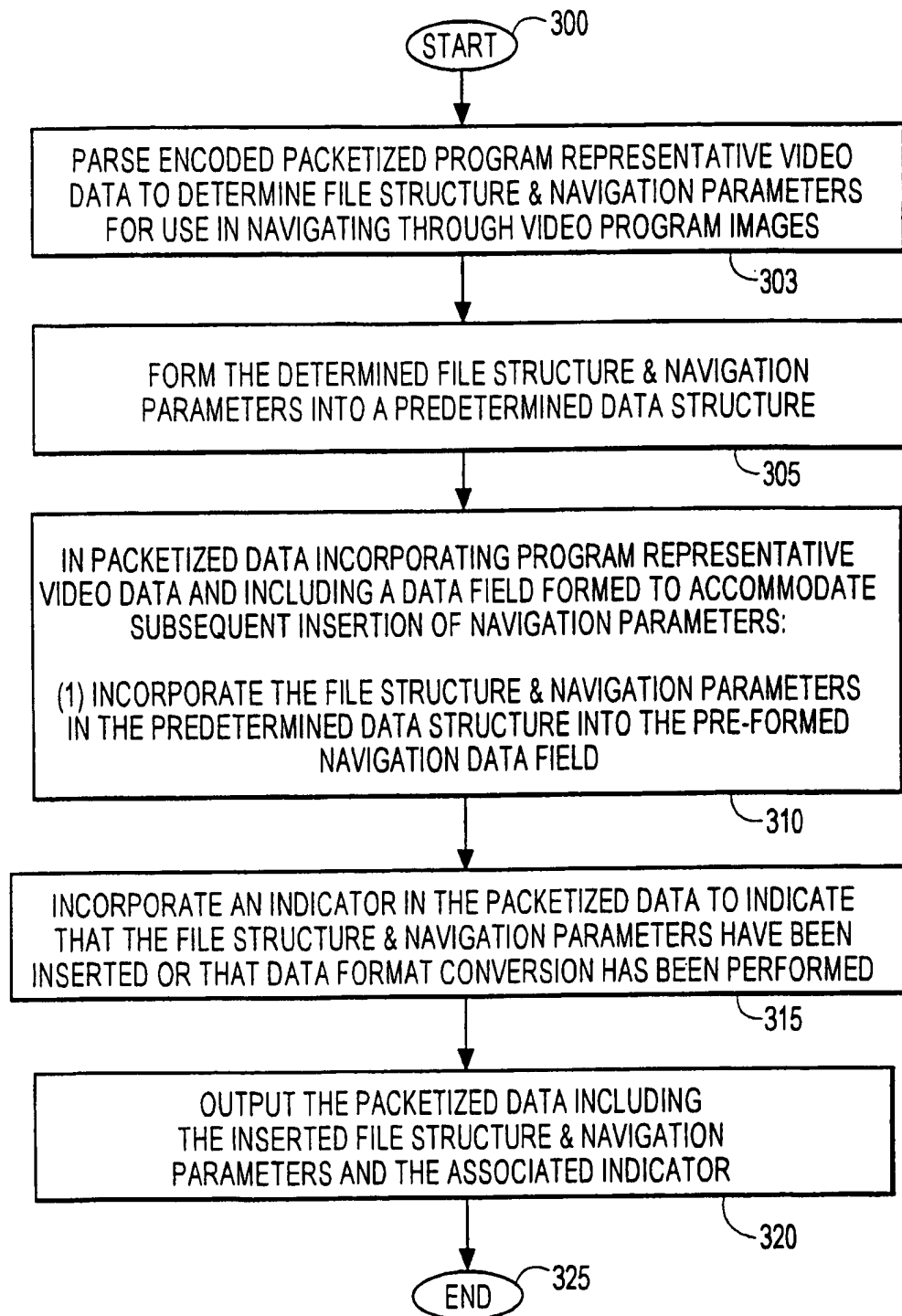


FIG. 7

7/9

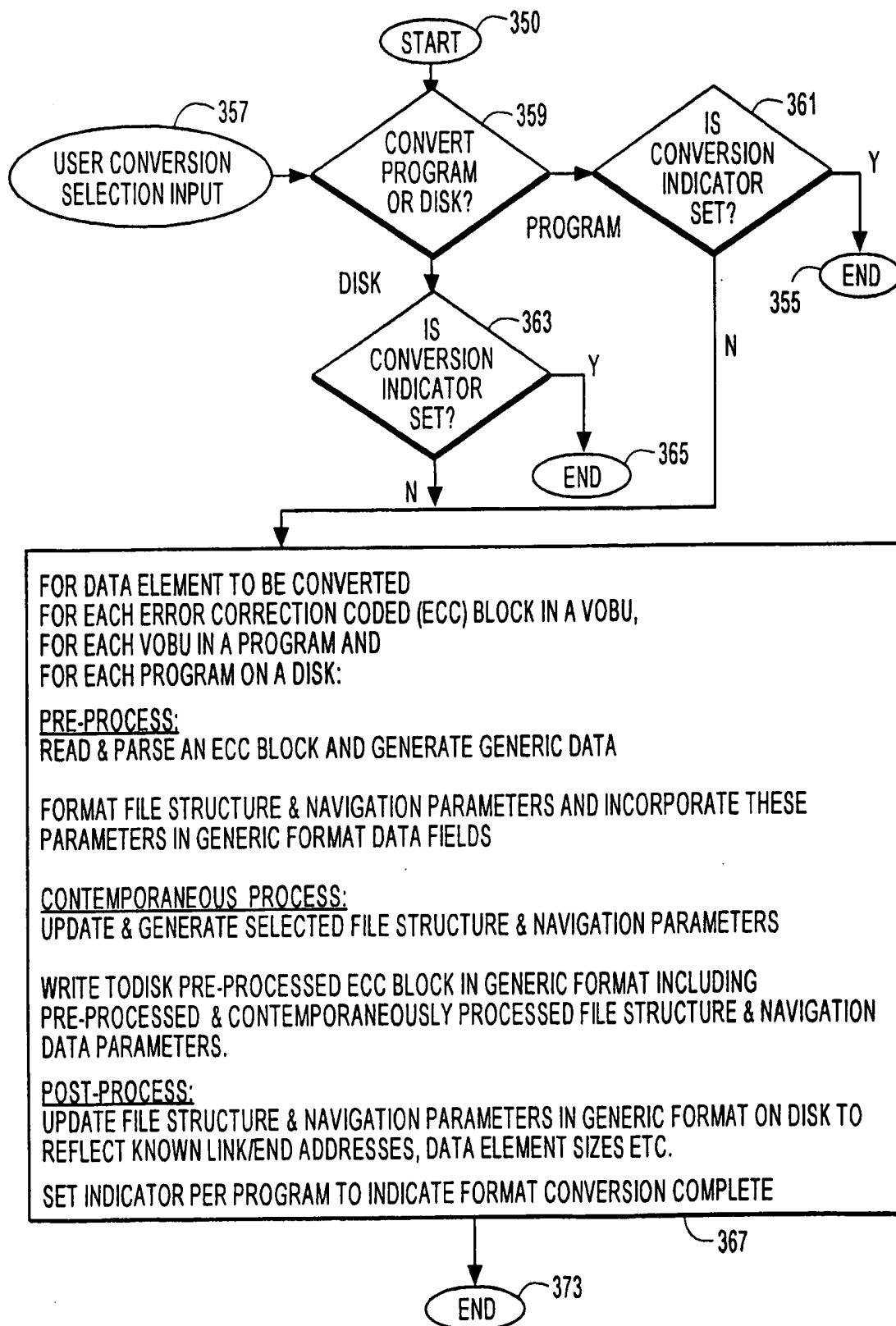


FIG. 8

8/9

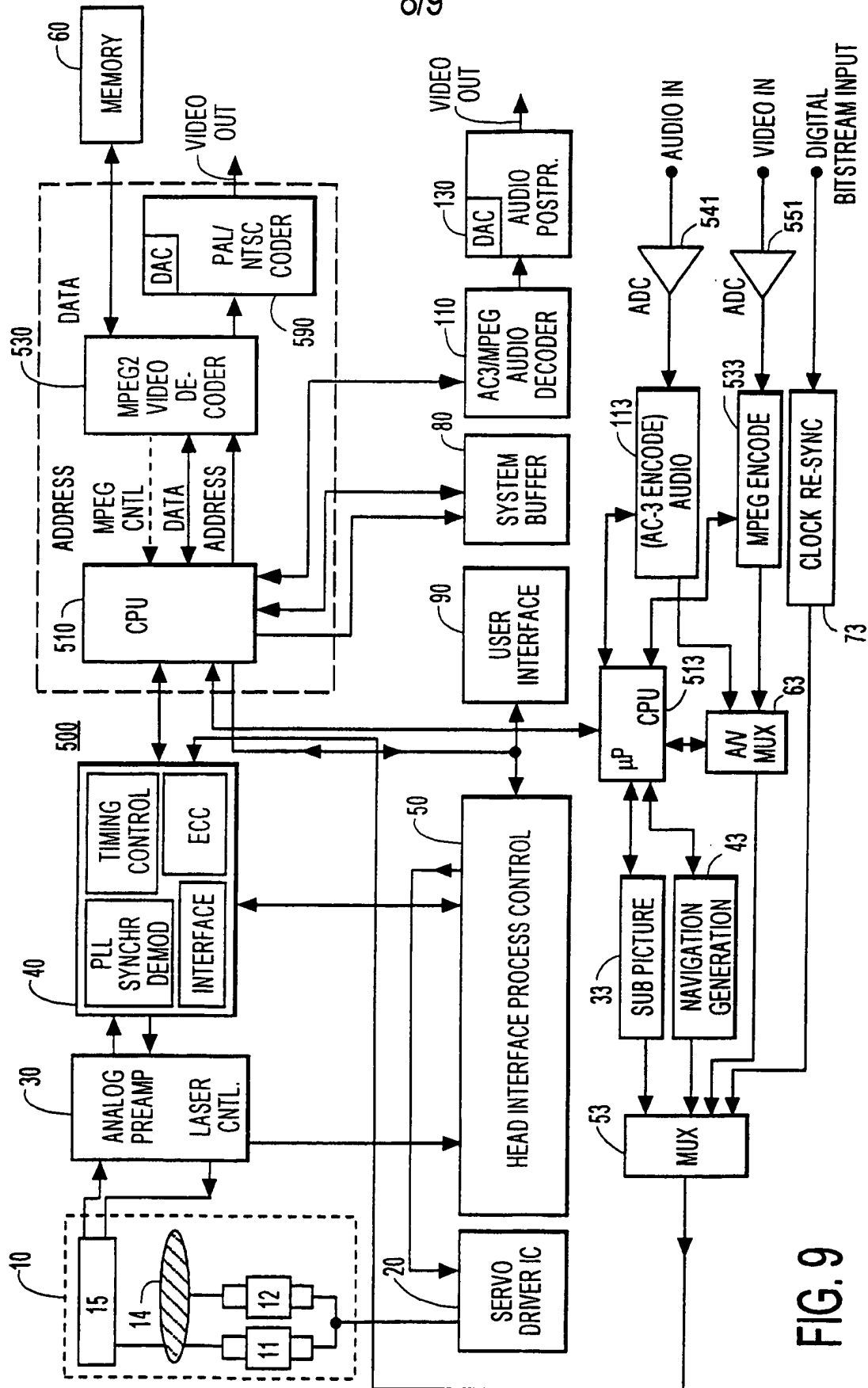
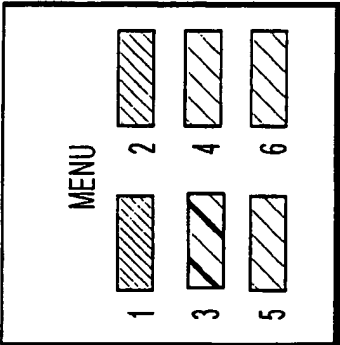
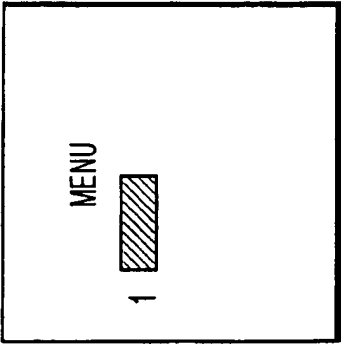


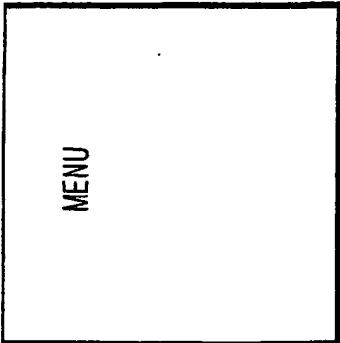
FIG. 9



(C) SIX BUTTONS ARE ADDED



(B) BUTTON 1 IS ADDED



(A) NO VISIBLE BUTTON

FIG.10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/21737

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G11B27/034 G11B27/32 G11B27/30 G11B20/12 G11B27/34
G11B27/36 H04N5/85 //G06F3/033

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G11B H04N G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 99 38098 A (SPRUCE TECHNOLOGIES INC) 29 July 1999 (1999-07-29) page 19, line 34 -page 25, line 30	1-11
A	US 5 929 857 A (MOBINI AMIR M ET AL) 27 July 1999 (1999-07-27) the whole document	1-11
P,A	EP 0 986 062 A (THOMSON BRANDT GMBH) 15 March 2000 (2000-03-15) the whole document	1-11

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 November 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Mourik, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/21737

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9938098	A	29-07-1999	AU	2339099 A	09-08-1999
US 5929857	A	27-07-1999	NONE		
EP 0986062	A	15-03-2000	EP	0991072 A	05-04-2000
			AU	5742899 A	27-03-2000
			WO	0014744 A	16-03-2000
			AU	5854999 A	27-03-2000
			WO	0014743 A	16-03-2000